

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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47

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 AID-05 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AGR-05 OMB-01 EUR-12

IO-10 HEW-02 EB-07 TRSE-00 COME-00 /087 W

----- 054221

O R 061350Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4655

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 130

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LT, US

SUBJECT: UNITED DEMOCRATIC PARTY CALLS FOR SUSPENSION OF U.S.
AND UK AID TO LESOTHO

1. YESTERDAY LEADER OF UNITED DEMOCRATIC PARTY (UDP) CHARLES MOFELI DELIVERED LETTERS TO US AND TO UK HIGH COMMISSIONER APPEALING TO OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS TO SUSPEND ALL DEVELOPMENT AID TO LESOTHO UNTIL NEW GOVERNMENT IS ELECTED IN FREE ELECTIONS. ARGUMENTATION OF LETTER, WHICH ADDRESSED TO SECRETARY KISSINGER AND BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT, IS THAT JONATHAN GOVERNMENT IS ASSISTED IN MAINTAINING DICTATORIAL RULE BY PROVISION OF U.S. ASSISTANCE. (UDP IS SMALLEST AND LEAST CONSEQUENTIAL OF LESOTHO'S OPPOSITION PARTIES, BUT MOFELI HAS USED HIS POSITION AS MEMBER OF INTERIM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY QUITE EFFECTIVELY IN VOICING DISSENT FROM RULING BNP'S POLICIES.)

2. CHARGE GAVE BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF U.S. ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN
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LESOTHO TO MOFELI, EMPHASIZING HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS OF FOOD AID

AND HEALTH PROJECTS AND LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENTAL ASPECTS OF OTHER PROJECTS. EXPLAINED U.S. ASSISTANCE WAS PROVIDED NOT TO SUPPORT PARTICULAR GOVERNMENT BUT TO HELP ALL THE PEOPLE OF COUNTRY ACHIEVE ASPIRATIONS TO A BETTER LIFE.

3. MOFELI ASKED WHAT OUR REACTION WOULD BE IF HE SHOULD PUBLICIZE UDP'S APPEAL. WE EXPLAINED THAT WE WERE ALWAYS INTERESTED IN LEARNING VIEWS OF ALL SEGMENTS OF LESOTHO SOCIETY. HE THEREFORE WELCOME TO CALL AT EMBASSY TO EXPRESS HIS VIEWS. HOWEVER, OUR AID PROGRAM WAS COMPLETELY DIVORCED FROM POLITICS AND WE WOULD NOT BE DRAWN INTO PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF LOCAL POLITICAL SITUATION WHICH COULD BE CONSTRUED AS INTERFERENCE IN LESOTHO'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. IF MOFELI CHOSE TO PUBLICIZE HIS APPEAL TO US, THERE WAS NOTHING WE COULD DO TO STOP IT BUT WE CONSIDERED THE VISIT PRIVATE.

4. MOFELI EVIDENTLY DECIDED TO PUBLICIZE HIS APPEAL, AS SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO CARRIED BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT NOON TODAY THAT UDP HAD APPEALED BY LETTER FOR SUSPENSION OF U.S. AND UK AID. NO MENTION MADE OF MOFELI'S CALLS AT EMBASSY AND HIGH COMMISSION.

5. THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT PRESS OR RADIO MAY ASK US FOR COMMENTS. IF SO, AND PENDING INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPARTMENT OR AMBASSADOR, WE INTEND TO SAY ONLY THAT OUR ASSISTANCE IS DIVORCED FROM POLITICS AND IS INTENDED TO HELP ALL PEOPLE TOWARD A BETTER LIFE. WE WILL NOT COMMENT ON INTERNAL MATTERS EVEN TO EXTENT OF CONFIRMING WHETHER UDP HAS MADE APPEAL TO US TO SUSPEND AID. HAVE CONSULTED WITH UK HICOM AND BELIEVE THIS IS COURSE HE WILL ALSO FOLLOW. HIS RESPONSE TO MOFELI WAS SIMILAR TO OURS.

6. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM RELIABLE SOURCE THAT GOL KNEW OF MOFELI'S LETTER, PROBABLY BEFORE IT WAS DELIVERED AND APPARENTLY MADE NO EFFORT TO INTERFERE WITH HIM. WE THEREFORE DOUBT THAT INCIDENT WILL CAUSE US ANY EMBARRASSMENT WITH GOL.

7. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S AND AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS OR INSTRUCTIONS SOONEST.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MASERU00130
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750044-0029
From: MASERU
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750267/aaaachxs.tel
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Reference: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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